HANDEL · AND · HAYDN SOCIETY

BOSTON SYMPHONY HALL

VERDI
HANDEL
GOUNOD

EIGHTY-SIXTH SEASON
SEVEN HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVENTH CONCERT

SUNDAY EVENING

APRIL 7, 1901

7.30 O'CLOCK

The Redemption

MR. EMIL MOLLENHAUER, Conductor

MR. H. G. TUCKER, Organist

Miss SARA ANDERSON, Soprano

Mrs. MARIE WEALE-DOW, Soprano

Miss GRACE PRESTON, Alto

Mr. GLENN HALL, Tenor

Mr. GWILYM MILES, Bass

Mr. ERICSSON BUSHNELL, Bass

CHARACTERS

JESUS - - - - - - -	Bass	THE HOLY WOMEN	Two Sopranos, Alto
MARY - - - - - - -	Alto	THE ANGEL - - - - -	Alto
THE PENITENT THIEF - -	Tenor	THE VOICE FROM HEAVEN -	Soprano
THE IMPENITENT THIEF -	Bass	NARRATORS - - -	Tenor, Bass

THE APOSTLES, THE DISCIPLES, THE PRIESTS, THE SOLDIERS OF THE WATCH, THE PASSERS-BY, THE CELESTIAL CHOIR, THE PROPHETIC CHOIR, Chorus.

Players from the Boston Symphony Orchestra

Mr. OTTO ROTH, Principal

Chickering Pianos used exclusively by the Handel and Haydn Society

CHARLES FRANCOIS GOUNOD

BORN IN PARIS, JUNE 17, 1818. DIED IN PARIS, OCT. 19, 1893.

THE REDEMPTION

A sacred trilogy; I, The Passion; II, The Resurrection; III, The Pentecost. Composed for the Birmingham Festival. Text also by GOUNOD; the English translation by Rev. J. TROUTBECK. Dedicated to QUEEN VICTORIA. Produced, under direction of the composer, Aug. 30, 1882. First performance by the Handel and Haydn Society, Jan. 29, 1883; present performance the seventh.

PROLOGUE

THE CREATION

ORCHESTRA: *Adagio*

THE FALL

First Narrator

O Lord, when Thou didst rest from the work of creation,
Thou didst call very good the things which Thou hadst made.
Of the works of thy hands, by thy predestination,
Was the father of men appointed to be head.

And he, placed in a land of abundance and beauty,
Lived a pure happy life, under guidance of duty;
And at length, of decay and of death knowing naught,
While in slumber enfolded, would have been heavenward caught.

Second Narrator

But since he, in revolt, blindly refused to hearken
To Thy Divine command, that which Thou wouldst have done,
The deep shadow of death did his life newly darken,
As the shadow of sin on our faith has been thrown;
And to man heaven was closed. Not by blood flowing often
Could mankind ever hope the Lord's anger to soften.

First Narrator

But of the spotless Lamb whom thy love doth provide
All the types incomplete shall be now set aside;
Thou by Thyself, O God, wilt accomplish this wonder;
So filling up the gulf which earth and heaven doth sunder.
In our flesh One will come, to be born and to die,
To prevail over death, exalting Man on high.
Thy blessed Son hath said,—

THE PROMISE OF REDEMPTION

The Celestial Choir

The earth is my possession:
I leave my heavenly home
To atone for transgression:
O My Father, lo I come.

PART ONE

CALVARY

I

Second Narrator

Then is Jesus condemned; and they bind Him; and they mock Him: on the head do they smite Him; in His face even spitting: the blood is also gushing out beneath the scourge. Then, when His tormentors ended their insult, He said, upon them casting a look sad and sweet,—

Jesus

If My deeds have been evil, bear ye witness against Me: if indeed I am guiltless, then wherefore smite ye Me?

Second Narrator

When the hour was at hand, the Lord with resignation
Went forth up to the mount; as a sinner to die.
For us gave He Himself as a willing oblation;
That in His holy blood, Man, by a new creation,
Might again be invested with grace from on high,
And at last might attain to eternal salvation.

THE MARCH TO CALVARY

CHORUS

Forth the royal banners go,
Before our eyes appearing:
The Cross, in mystic glow,
Is power and love declaring.
To make us free doth One its bondage know:
As Man, the Lord Himself the weight of sin is bearing.

Second Narrator

And while Jesus went up the mount, and bore His Cross, there followed after women; who wept and bewailed Him.

SEMI-CHORUS

Alas! They go then to put Him to death: it must be the Just One will perish. Behold, how He has fallen; a second time has fallen.

Second Narrator

And the Lord heard their words; and, turning to them, spake thus:—

Jesus

Ye daughters of Israel, weep ye not for Me; but weep ye for yourselves, and weep ye for your children. Jerusalem is faithless found.

CHORUS

Forth the royal banners go.

II

THE CRUCIFIXION.

First Narrator—Behold, when they are come to the place appointed, they extend on the Cross the Saviour's sacred limbs. He, though His eyes are dim with more than mortal anguish, yet turns on them a gaze full of Divine compassion. From His feet, from His hands, that are torn by the nails, the blood drops on the ground.

Second Narrator—Then with words they blaspheme Him: with looks do they deride: unrestrained is their fierceness. The passers-by come near to behold what is done.

The Passers-by—Ha! Thou that dost declare Thou destroyest the Temple, Thou that canst in three days build it again, hast Thou not power to save Thyself? Canst Thou not now come down? Save Thyself. Son of God, come Thou down from the Cross.

Second Narrator—The priests, hearing the cries, with mocking voices said,—

The Priests—Can He not save Himself, He, the Saviour of others? See Him there; none to help; not a friend; no disciples. Is He King of the Jews? Let Him shew it to-day. If He be the Son of God, let His Father give ear, and release Him. Behold, let Him now come down from the Cross, and at once we believe on Him.

First Narrator—And the Lord, in His love for Mankind never failing,
On behalf of His slayers for pardon implores.

Jesus—Pardon their sin, My Father, for they know not what they do.

THE REPROACHES

QUARTET

O My vineyard, come tell Me why thy grapes are bitter. What have I done, My people? Wherein hast thou been wronged? Did I not bring thee out from the land of the stranger? Made I thee not to pass through the depths of the sea? Sent I not food from heaven, and gave meat in abundance? Did manna ever cease till thou camest to Canaan? Reply, unthankful race. And thou, for all this love, preparest Me the Cross whereupon I shall die.

III

MARY AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS.

First Narrator—And Jesus then, as down on the ground He was looking, saw at the foot of the Cross the disciple whom He loved; the same that on His breast at supper had reclined. Near unto him He saw His Virgin Mother. On her bent He an eye full of tender regard; and shewing filial love unto her who had borne Him, He said,—

Jesus—Woman, behold thy son.

First Narrator—Then, speaking unto John, He said,—

Jesus—Behold thy mother.

First Narrator—And the disciple took her that day to his home; her, as the sacred trust of an eternal love.

QUARTET: CHORUS

Beside the Cross remaining
A face the Mother wears,
Unresisting, uncomplaining;
And yet the grief she bears
Her heart in sunder tears.

Though He claim adoration,
On the Cross Jesus hangs:
Her soul, past consolation,
Knowing but lamentation,
Has a share in His pangs.

Mary

While my watch I am keeping,
Ye that go by, sinners,
Gaze at the Mother weeping,
Torn by anguish unsleeping:
Ask if any one bears
Any grief like to hers.

CHORAL

While her watch she is keeping, *etc.*

IV

THE TWO THIEVES

Second Narrator—While the crowd at their feet was gathering to view, from one of the thieves did railing proceed; and to Jesus he said, crying out and blaspheming,—

The Impenitent Thief—Thou canst not be the Christ: else wouldst Thou save us all; first Thyself, us then likewise.

First Narrator—The other replied,—

The Penitent Thief—Ah, and fearest thou not, inasmuch as thou art in the same condemnation? For that which we have done a due reward we suffer. As for Him who hangs here with us, wherein hath He offended? What evil hath He done?

First Narrator—Then he turned toward Jesus a look as of hope; and said,—

The Penitent Thief—O Lord, wilt Thou remember me when Thou comest in Thy kingdom?

First Narrator—And the Lord was touched by the faith in pardon which he shewed; and turning to him, spake thus:—

Jesus—In very truth say I to thee, Today shalt thou be with Me in Paradise.

CHORAL

Lord Jesus, Thou to all bringest light and salvation.
The man that trusts in Thee over Death will prevail;
And though he die, in Thee will find his restoration.
O Saviour true, O mighty God, Thy Name we hail.

V

THE DEATH OF JESUS.

Second Narrator—Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour the light of the sun was obscured; and darkness, as of night, came over all the land, from sight all things concealing.

THE DARKNESS

ORCHESTRA: *Andante, quasi Adagio*

Second Narrator—And about the ninth hour Jesus, in bitter anguish, with a loud voice cried out; as if in meeting death He sought for the compassionate love of His Father:—

Jesus—My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?

First Narrator—When, at the last, the shadow of death was descending, raising His eyes to heaven, with a loud voice He cried,—

Jesus—My Father, into Thy hands I commend My spirit.

Second Narrator—Then gave He up the ghost; and all came to an end.

THE EARTHQUAKE

The Narrators—And then the air was filled with a murmur unwonted, as if Nature herself for her Lord were lamenting; and the veil of the Temple was rent in twain throughout; and the rocks were rent; and the earth did quake; and the tombs were unclosed; and many of the saints that had fallen asleep rose again with their bodies; and they, after His resurrection coming forth, to the city returned, and by many were seen.

VI

THE CENTURION

Second Narrator—And when the Centurion and they that were with him saw the earthquake, and all the things that were done, they were amazed and afraid; and glorifying God, they said, This man then was in truth the Son of God.

CHORAL

For us the Christ is made a victim availing;
Yea, unto death, and the death of the Cross.
In vain our ancient foe will mankind be assailing:
To Him who now has died shall be triumph unfailing.
O Death, thou art discrowned: thou gainest only loss.
Faith unswerving; holy Hope, that unconquered remaineth;
Heavenly Love, ever young: for them thanks do we raise.
Thou, by Whose Death and Passion Man unto heaven attaineth,
O Christ, Thee we adore, and unto Thee give praise.

INTERMISSION TEN MINUTES

PART TWO

AFTER THE RESURRECTION

I

THE PROPHETIC CHOIR

Saviour of men, we know that because Thou art living,
We live: Thou to the dead resurrection art giving:
Yea, all them that are sleeping from the grave Thou wilt bring;

So that, to life restored, we shall see Thou art glorious;
Whenas Death, over whom this day Thou art victorious,
Has fled before the Lord and King.

II

THE HOLY WOMEN AT THE SEPULCHRE

First Narrator — Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, came, bringing spices wherewith to anoint Him; and they came to the tomb of the Master whom they loved. Day was dawning, as on their lonely way they were going, their hearts full of the thought of their sweet ministration. They as they went said to themselves, —

The Holy Women — How shall we by ourselves have strength to roll away the stone from the tomb ? Is there no one who will aid us ? Who will look on our distress ?

First Narrator — The newly risen sun with his life-giving rays the hill of Calvary was gilding, ere these devoted women had arrived at the tomb. To the threshold at once they directed their eyes; and they saw the stone rolled away from the entrance into the tomb. Behold, one that in face was like unto lightning, and was arrayed in dazzling apparel, stood at their side, as they thought thereupon. When the Angel appeared, the women were affrighted. Then said the Angel to them, —

The Angel — Why seek ye the living among the dead ? Are the words of the Lord now no longer remembered ? But let your hearts be glad, and full of comfort. Ye are seeking the Lord; but He is risen again. Behold the very place where His body was laid. His sacred limbs themselves have these grave-clothes been swathing. But depart, and tell his disciples. He goeth into Galilee, according as He said: there shall ye see Him again.

First Narrator — Bright with pure heavenly beauty did the face of the Angel at the moment appear. At the words they had heard, filled with sacred awe, the women went on their way.

III

JESUS APPEARING TO THE HOLY WOMEN

First Narrator — And behold, as they went on their way, the Lord Himself met them, and said, All hail, when He appeared.

Jesus — All hail! Blessed are ye women. All the things ye have done, all the tears ye have been shedding, signs of a faithful love, have their reward in heaven. Be not afraid; but go, tell ye My brethren to depart to Galilee: there they shall see Me. Depart quickly; and say to them that ye have this day seen the Lord.

First Narrator — And they fell at His feet; and holding them, they worshipped; and the Lord disappeared. The women then rose up, and continued their journey.

IV

THE SANHEDRIM

The Narrators — Now when these things were done, came the watchers back to the city; they that till morning guarded the tomb; and they told to the priests all the things they had witnessed.

The Soldiers of the Watch — Christ is risen again. Vainly we kept a watch. Lo, the tomb open stands. This in truth is a sign. Jesus Christ; He Whom some as a prophet regarded; the Just One; and was He more than mortal ?

V

THE HOLY WOMEN BEFORE THE APOSTLES

The Narrators — Now while by their bitter sorrow the disciples were dismayed, for their comfort they bethought them of the promise of their Master, that they should see Him again. But so it was, when the tidings were brought them, their faith displayed itself as inconstant and doubtful.

The Holy Women — The Lord, He is risen again;
To our sight and to our hearing
Have wondrous signs been appearing;
He doth Manhood yet retain.
The Lord, He is risen again.

Him we saw, when home returning
At the breaking of the day:
Our hearts are within us burning;
All grief and doubt passed away.
The Lord, He is risen again.

The Disciples — Though we fain would have believed you,
Some form surely has deceived you;
Some phantom, seen in the night.
From trusting what you have told us:
Lack of witness must withhold us:
We rely on hearing and sight.

SOPRANO SOLO AND CHORUS

From thy love as a Father,
O Lord, teach us to gather
That Life will conquer Death.
They who seek things eternal
Shall rise to light supernal
On wings of lowly faith.

VI

JESUS APPEARING TO THE APOSTLES

THE ASCENSION

First Narrator — The apostles that were left at evening met together, the doors now being shut: and while they were assembled, the Lord Himself came, and stood in the midst. They were greatly afraid at the sight; but He said, —

Jesus — Be not afraid: it is I. Your heart need not be troubled. Behold; for I am not a shadow, an apparition: I am such as I was when I walked on the sea. Behold; for a spirit can have neither flesh nor bones.

First Narrator — And the disciples did obeisance; and they fell on their knees, in fear, giving Him worship; and the Lord then approached, and said, —

Jesus — Arise, and hear. All authority is Mine in Heaven and on the earth; and by you shall witness be borne unto Me. To all the nations bear the news of salvation. Depart: give them the word which I gave unto you, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. I leave you My Peace: and I am with you alway; yea, to the end of the world.

First Narrator — After this to a mountain He led them forth; and then, lifting up His hands as in blessing, He departed, and ascended into heaven.

CHORUS

Unfold, ye portals everlasting,
With welcome to receive Him ascending on high.
Behold the King of Glory: He mounts up through the sky;
Back to the heavenly mansions hasting.
Unfold; for lo, the King comes nigh.

The Celestial Choir — But who is He, the King of Glory?

CHORUS

He Who Death overcame; the Lord in battle mighty.
Of hosts he is the Lord: of angels and of powers: the King of Glory is the King of the saints. Unfold, ye portals everlasting; *etc.*

PART THREE

THE PENTECOST

I

CHORUS AND SOPRANO SOLO

Lovely appear over the mountains
The feet of them that preach, and bring good news of peace.
Ye mountains, ye perpetual hills, bow ye down.
Over the barren wastes shall flowers now have possession.
Dark shades of ancient days, full of hate and oppression,
In the brightness of joy fade away, and are gone.
In this age, truly blest more than ages preceding,
Shall the corn never fail from the plentiful ground:
Under the shining sky shall the lambs gayly bound:
Void of fear, undisturbed, safely shall they be feeding.
Then the timorous birds, e'en the turtle-dove meek,
Shall not fear any more the hawk's merciless beak.

II

THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY GHOST

First Narrator — Upon the day of Pentecost it came to pass that in one place, with one accord, the disciples, according as they were wont, were praying, while they waited for the promise of God.

THE APOSTLES IN PRAYER.

Second Narrator — Lo, there came a mighty sound, a sound as of a tempest; and it filled all the place in which they were assembled. Then did there tongues appear and were parting among them. The tongues were like as of fire; and on each one of the chosen band it was sitting. On a sudden appeared the tongues that were like as of fire, parting among the band.

The Narrators — At once the Spirit came upon them: a holy rapture, their very souls possessing, both inflames and inspires them: these untaught simple men, these hearts with terror chilled, like to heroes appear, in their zeal for the faith.

A Voice from Heaven — Go ye forth on your way: the Lord Himself will guide you:
Unto death be ye faithful, whatever betide you.
Through the world go ye forth: unto you it is given
To preach the tidings glad of the Kingdom of Heaven.

CHORUS — The Word is Flesh become: *etc.*

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